



BROOKLINE SPORTS HANDBOOK

Objective

The purpose of this handbook is to create a youth sports standard throughout the town of Brookline and to inform coaches, parents, and participants about the elements of Brookline's sports program. The goal is to create a sports program that meets our department's mission of enhancing the quality of life through enriching experiences, which supports the Brookline community in developing and maintaining healthy lifestyles.

Types of Leagues

Types of leagues generally vary by age, competitiveness and skill level. Parents and participants must consider the proper sports environment for an athlete when choosing a league to join. Considerations include age of participant, development level, type of sport and the proper level of stress involved. Leagues are developed to increase physical activity, develop physical and social skills, educate and increase the well-being of children. Selecting the right leagues is vital for participants to get the most out of their involvement. The types of leagues usually are categorized as Development, Organized and Competitive.

Introduction/Developmental

Developmental leagues focus on teaching the basic rules of the sport and developing fundamental skills for proper participation. This type of league is considered entry-level and is the least competitive of the three leagues. Typically, volunteers or parents provide coaching for the children and competitions and practices are held locally. An example of a Developmental league is the Joe Noe Basketball Clinic.

Organized

While entry-level participants may take part in organized leagues, there is generally a larger emphasis on competition and winning than in the Developmental league. Being active and increasing the well-being of youth participants is still part of the league's goal. Although volunteer coaches are used and most events are held locally, this type of league involves the potential distant traveling. Brookline Youth Lacrosse is an example of an organized league.

Competitive

This type of league involves a high level of competition and events that take place locally and away from home. Competitive leagues are designed for players who demonstrate a strong skill set and high level of interest in the sport. Travel Basketball is considered to be a Competitive league.

Adult

Adult leagues are meant for persons ages 18 and above, and consist of participants with a wide range of skill level and ages. Adult leagues are typically organized and competitive but will be developmental as well as provide for great forms of exercise and socialization.

Registration

Registration dates for year round athletic programs will be posted on the Brookline Recreation website as well as in the seasonal booklets. Registration for all activities can be completed online at brooklinerec.com. Fees will vary depending on the sport. Attempting to register after the registration period has ended will result in a late fee. There is also a possibility that the program will be full and space is not available for additional registrants.

Safety

Creating a safe environment for participants, coaches and fans is the most important component of Brookline sports. By providing a safe play area, using safe and inspected player equipment and supervising the play of the athletes at all times, Brookline youth programs can be sure to provide a safe playing experience. Emergency guidelines are put in place for all major accidents or injuries and will be discussed at all coaches' training meetings.

General Emergency Guidelines:

- 1) Address the situation in a calm professional, manner
- 2) Do not move injured person unless necessary
- 3) Notify emergency personnel
- 4) Stay with injured person
- 5) Contact your supervisor or department staff
- 6) Inclusion & Accommodation
- 7) CPR & 1st aid

Recreation Code of Conduct

Mission and Purpose

The Brookline Park and Recreation Commission is dedicated to raising the standard of service in sports through the creation and enforcement of the Code of Conduct, which defines the expectations for all participants affiliated with Brookline Recreation sport program. The Commission firmly believes that for any sports program to be positive, safe, enjoyable and fun learning experiences, all participants must be held accountable for their behavior. This Code of Conduct explains the tools to be used by the Park and Recreation Commission to ensure that all participants are provided with a positive and enriching experience.

Respect, Sportsmanship and Positive Interactions

Participants are expected to maintain a high level of respect, sportsmanship and positive interactions with all affiliated with the delivery of the youth sport. All participants must;

- Respect and support all coaches, officials, players, teammates, opponents, parents, spectators and staff affiliated with the delivery of the sport;
- Respect facilities, grounds and equipment;
- Respect the integrity of the sport, including the rules and fundamentals of the game set forth by the league and by our community youth sport partners;
- Cheer for and support teammates;
- Always try one's best;
- Treat all participants in a positive and encouraging manner

Positive Interactions foster an experience for continued participation, personal growth and wellness.

Positive Interactions are defined as;

- Displaying good sportsmanship at all times towards all participants;
- Provide a safe and supportive environment that encourages all participants to learn, have fun, be social and challenge themselves;
- Use of appropriate language and refrain from use of foul language, taunting, fighting, criticizing, badgering, or jeering at anyone, understanding that ejection from the youth sport activity is a possibility for such behavior
- Negative reinforcement, isolation, individual or team punishment/retaliation will not be tolerated. Disciplinary actions will occur if/when found to be occurring.

DISCIPLINE

Any player, coach, assistant coach or parent/guardian of a player who is a discipline problem, who throws their hat, helmet, bat, ball, or glove in anger, uses foul language, or any other actions detrimental to the Brookline Recreation Code of Conduct will be removed from the game/practice and/or league participation as coaches, officials, players, teammates, opponents, parents, spectators and staff affiliated and will be required to immediately leave the area. This rule may be enforced by the player's coach (where applicable), umpire, referee, and/or designee of the Recreation Department.

Any mischievous behavior or inappropriate conduct on the bench will also result in removal from the game. Examples include; but are not limited to:

- Players will direct all cheering towards their own teammates and shall refrain from taunting, criticizing or jeering at opposing players. Badgering, name-calling or use of foul language by a coach, whether directed at an umpire, coach, player or spectator will not be tolerated. Violation of this rule will result in a warning to the coach followed by ejection from the game.

- Cursing or fighting is cause for immediate ejection from the game, and repeated offenses will result in player(s) or coach (es) being barred from participating in future games or practices.
- League specific guidelines may supersede the guidelines set here. Said leagues will enforce the guidelines and expectations set forth during participation in the sport specific league and will be provided prior to participation.
- Any coaches, officials, players, teammates, opponents, parents, spectators and staff affiliated may be removed from participation at the discretion of the Recreation Department.

Role of All Participants

Athlete: Youth engaged in safe, fun and healthy activities while encouraging team mates and self to do their best.

Parent: Encourage participation through commitment to the league and the rules and regulations of the sport and Code of Conduct.

Coach: Adult responsible for the sport instructions, practices, games and overall team experience

Official: Employee assigned to maintain the rules and regulations of the specific youth sports match.

Staff: Employee or volunteer affiliated with the Youth Sports league

Spectators: Community members attending league practices and matches.

Partner Organizations: Youth sports organizations that utilize Town of Brookline facilities to provide the services of the Sports specific youth sports league.

Terms

As a participant of the Brookline Youth Sports programs, I have read and agree to abide to the Code of Conduct set forth by the Brookline Recreation Department.

Coaches' Training

Potential coaches must submit a background check and participate in a training session prior to the beginning of the season and direct service with a team. Training sessions will cover:

Program Goals

Recreation Philosophy

Role of a Coach – the more positive and knowledgeable, the more the parents and players enjoy the sport

Coaching Techniques

Safety – playing environment, equipment, concussion prevention and treatments, and proper hydration

Concussion awareness and online training certification

Player Selection

Competitive leagues may host a tryout and evaluation of players to place on teams. This is based on sport, league and divisions and may be based on seasons.

Practices and Games

Schedules will be created and provided for the coaches. It is each coach's responsibility to provide their players with the schedule for the season, along with team rosters and a phone number/email at which time can be reached. In the event of cancellation of a game or event, emails, posted online or phone calls should be made to inform the players and their parents.

End of Season Recognition

Athletes, volunteers, coaches and staff may be recognized and appreciated through a variety of ways as a way to thank each for a great season.

Evaluations

Evaluations allow parents and coaches to provide input on the program. Anonymous and confidential evaluations are conducted and completed online at the conclusion of each season.

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